The words that we use have the power to influence those around us. Unfortunately, many of us grew up hearing common phrases that perpetuate violence toward animals, such as “kill two birds with one stone,” “beat a dead horse,” and “bring home the bacon.” These old sayings are often passed down in classrooms during lessons on literary devices.

While these phrases may seem harmless, they carry meaning and can send mixed signals to students about the relationship between humans and animals and can normalize abuse. Teaching students to use animal-friendly language can cultivate positive relationships between all beings and help end the epidemic of youth violence toward animals. Try using some of the following fun idioms in your lessons this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harmful</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kill two birds with one stone</td>
<td>Feed two birds with one scone</td>
<td>Accomplish two things with one action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let the cat out of the bag</td>
<td>Spill the beans</td>
<td>Tell a secret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the bull by the horns</td>
<td>Take the flower by the thorns</td>
<td>Handle a problem fearlessly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be the guinea pig</td>
<td>Be the test tube</td>
<td>Be tested on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold your horses</td>
<td>Hold the phone</td>
<td>Wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open a can of worms</td>
<td>Open Pandora’s box</td>
<td>Create a situation that will cause problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring home the bacon</td>
<td>Bring home the bagels</td>
<td>Make a living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beat a dead horse</td>
<td>Feed a fed horse</td>
<td>Try to make something happen that has no chance of happening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one way to skin a cat</td>
<td>More than one way to peel a potato</td>
<td>More than one way to complete a task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put all your eggs in one basket</td>
<td>Put all your berries in one bowl</td>
<td>Bet everything on one possibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Need more classroom inspiration? Visit TeachKind.org
HARMFUL: Kill two birds with one stone
HELPFUL: Feed two birds with one scone

MEANING: Accomplish two things with one action
HARMFUL: Let the cat out of the bag
HELPFUL: Spill the beans

MEANING: Tell a secret
HARMFUL: Take the bull by the horns
HELPFUL: Take the flower by the thorns

MEANING: Handle a problem fearlessly

TeachKind
HARMFUL: Be the guinea pig
HELPFUL: Be the test tube

MEANING: Be tested on

TeachKind
HARMFUL: Hold your horses
HELPFUL: Hold the phone

MEANING: Wait
HARMFUL: Open a can of worms
HELPFUL: Open Pandora’s box

MEANING: To create a situation that will cause more problems
HARMFUL: Bring home the bacon
HELPFUL: Bring home the bagels

MEANING: Make a living

TeachKind
HARMFUL: Beat a dead horse
HELPFUL: Feed a fed horse

MEANING: Try to make something happen that has no chance of happening.

TeachKind
**HARMFUL:** More than one way to skin a cat

**HELPFUL:** More than one way to peel a potato

**MEANING:** More than one way to complete a task

TeachKind
**HARMFUL:** Put all your eggs in one basket

**HELPFUL:** Put all your berries in one bowl

**MEANING:** Bet everything on one possibility